

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Twenty-fifth Middlesex Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Twenty-fifth Middlesex Representative District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 0.7% (867) reside in the Twenty-fifth Middlesex Representative District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (164) of Twenty-fifth Middlesex Representative District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 68.9% of admissions from the Twenty-fifth Middlesex Representative District were male and 31% were female.
- Over 65% of admissions were between the ages of 21-39.
- 89.9% of admissions were white non-Latino, 2.7% were black non-Latino, 3% were Latino, 0.9% were Asian and 3.4% were other racial categories.
- 69.4% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 11.4% were married, and 13.7% reported not to be married now.
- 19% of admissions had less than high school education, 55.4% completed high school, and 25.4% had more than high school education.
- 26.3% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 13.2% of those admitted were homeless.
- 12.9% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Twenty-fifth Middlesex Representative District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Twenty-fifth Middlesex Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	750	598	225	256	139	212	123
FY '96	817	649	275	289	167	296	171
FY '97	846	658	255	229	149	302	203
FY '98	941	718	270	266	145	359	245
FY '99	985	708	309	298	118	447	334
FY '00	1,085	767	309	342	135	544	428
FY '01	867	580	215	245	71	427	353

- Since FY 1995, residents of Twenty-fifth Middlesex Representative District reported a decrease in crack use, but a steady increase in heroin use. Crack use decreased by 48%, while heroin use increased by 101%.
- After peaking in FY 2000, admissions reporting alcohol, marijuana and cocaine use decreased by 24%, 30% and 28%, respectively.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Twenty-fifth Middlesex Representative District.

Table 2 Primary Drug by District and State FY 2001					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	39.6%	46.2%	3.9%	3.4%	1.1%
State	46.4%	35.9%	6.5%	3.8%	3.4%

- While cocaine as a primary drug of use in your Representative District was level with the State average, heroin as a primary drug was higher, and, alcohol, marijuana and crack was lower within your District.